

**II. Remarks**

The aforementioned Notice stated that the amendment filed on October 23, 2003 was considered non-compliant because the amendment to the Claim 7 was not submitted in the required format specified in 37 CFR 1.121. More specifically, the status identifier of Claim 7 was improperly designated as "presently amended."

To correct this defect, the status identifier of Claim 7 has been amended to include the proper status designation under 37 CFR 1.121 of "currently amended." As noted in the Notice, only the section of the amendment containing the non-compliant provision is being submitted in its entirety.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22, 2003

By: 

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